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Press release: South African Decision

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SOUTH AFRICAN DECISION

The Acting Premier, Mr. Corcoran, said today it was a Cabinet decision not to carry the South African rugby team on the South Australian railways.

The Railways Commissioner, Mr. Fitch, had raised the matter initially with the Minister of Transport, Mr. Virgo, who had then placed it before Cabinet.

Mr. Corcoran said: "When the Government announced its original ban on making facilities available to the team action of this kind with the Railways was not contemplated.

"However, the likelihood of industrial action has placed the South Australian Railways in the same position as the airways.

"In view of the disruption of normal traffic which would have occurred if the team were allowed to travel on the Railways, Cabinet decided the bookings should not be accepted."

Mr. Corcoran said that he was not surprised by the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Hall, to the Government's decision.

"Mr. Hall is, of course, a master of the art of manufacturing anger to suit any political occasion.

"He is clearly concerned with extracting every last ounce of political advantage over an issue which has deeply perturbed millions throughout the world.

"If Mr. Hall likes to be a public apologist for apartheid let him come out and say so.

"His hysterical stance does not fit in very well with the realities of the situation in South Africa.

"Let me remind him that the General Assembly of the United Nations has resolved that all States and organisations suspend sporting exchanges with organisations or institutions in South Africa which practise apartheid.